

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

**Listing of the Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 6352 ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3773-SEQ ID NO: 7544.~~
2. (Original) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.
3. (Original) A cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 2.
4. (Original) A method for producing an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide comprising culturing a cell of claim 3 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.
5. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide or a fragment thereof, wherein said nucleic acid is SEQ ID NO: 1450 ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1-SEQ ID NO: 3772.~~
6. (Original) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 5 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.
7. (Original) A cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 6.
8. (Original) A method for producing an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide comprising culturing a cell of claim 7 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.
9. (Currently Amended) A probe comprising a nucleotide sequence consisting of at least eight contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1450 ~~a nucleotide sequence selected from the~~

~~group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 SEQ ID NO: 3772.~~

10. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence of at least eight nucleotides in length, wherein the sequence is hybridizable to a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1450 ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 SEQ ID NO: 3772.~~

11. (Currently Amended) An immunogenic A-vaccine composition for prevention or treatment of an *S. epidermidis* infection comprising an effective amount of a nucleic acid of claim 5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. (Currently Amended) The immunogenic A-vaccine composition of claim 11, further comprising an adjuvant.

13. (Currently Amended) The immunogenic A-vaccine of claim 11, further comprising one or more additional active ingredients.

Claims 14-16. Cancelled

17. (Currently Amended) A recombinant or substantially pure preparation of an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide or a fragment thereof, wherein said polypeptide is SEQ ID NO: 6352 ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3773 SEQ ID NO: 7544.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The immunogenic A-vaccine composition for prevention or treatment of an *S. epidermidis* infection comprising an effective amount of an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide of claim 17 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. (Currently Amended) The immunogenic A-vaccine composition of claim 18, further comprising an adjuvant.

20. (Currently Amended) The immunogenic A-vaccine composition of claim 18,

further comprising one or more additional active ingredients.

Claims 21-31. Cancelled.

32. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence, wherein the nucleotide sequence is hybridizable under high stringency conditions to SEQ ID NO: 1450 ~~SEQ ID NOs: 1—SEQ ID NO: 3772~~ or ~~their~~ its complements.

33. (New) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1450.

34. (New) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of a nucleic acid encoding SEQ ID NO: 6352.